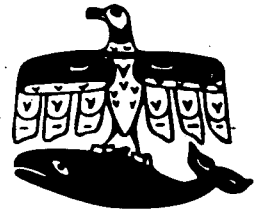


MAKAH TRIBE

P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201



IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 26, 2003

Dr. Jeffrey Koenings, Ph.D
Director
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

Dear Director Koenings:

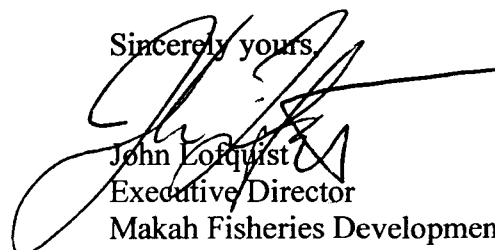
It was my pleasure to chat with you directly during the break at the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce luncheon earlier this week.

Please know that the people of Neah Bay greatly appreciate your deep concern for the economic well-being of small, rural communities such as ours.

As I mentioned during our conversation, we certainly need to keep the fishing season open here as long as we have salmon and other fish to catch. Sadly, the 2002 salmon season came to an abrupt and premature close reportedly because the Department did not have sufficient funds to pay for fish checkers. Neah Bay became an angling ghost town within a few days. We had thousands of Coho salmon left to catch and fine weather for the anglers. But the door was closed ... the curtain came crashing down....the season was over. People were laid-off. Businesses closed early. It was a terrible mistake and people in this village suffered greatly from this pitiful decision. Hopefully, by working together.... the Department and the Makah Tribe..... in concert with the businesses of Neah Bay, we will not experience this painful situation again.

Clearly, the Makah's recognize the tremendous economic significance of the recreational fishery to this community. In many ways, the recreational fishing sector is an infant industry here. We will be attending the North of Falcon meetings and we hope to be fully welcomed into that process as a respected party to that effort.

Sincerely yours,



John Lofquist
Executive Director
Makah Fisheries Development Foundation